



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

NEWS RELEASE

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Awards recognize contributions to service-learning

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster presented three service-learning awards Thursday during the annual State Superintendent and Wisconsin Campus Compact PK-16 Institute on Service-Learning and Citizenship at the Madison Concourse Hotel.

“Service-learning and civic literacy must become central in our schools,” Burmaster said in commending award recipients. “Service-learning meaningfully engages students in their education and increases their academic performance.”

Recipients of the 2009 State Superintendent’s Service-Learning Awards are

U.S. Senator Russ Feingold, who represents the service-learning efforts of Wisconsin teachers at the national level and promotes service-learning through his ongoing support and belief in the power of young people. Katie Crawley, a member of Feingold’s staff accepted the award.

The **Southeast Wisconsin Service-Learning Consortium**, which has developed an ongoing professional development model for service-learning. Professional development strengthens educators’ skills and the partnerships that help students experience application of knowledge in real world situations. Consortium representatives accepting the award were George Slupski, Pam Proulx-Curry, Carin Keland, Dave Weingrod, and Heather Ryan.

Under the guidance of **Tony Abts**, president of the ACES Xavier Educational System, teachers at Xavier High School in Appleton incorporate service-learning as a core instructional methodology in their classrooms. Abts has established service-learning as a primary strategy to reach student educational outcomes for the school.

In addition to the State Superintendent’s Service-Learning Awards presentation, Julie Bass, a representative from State Farm Insurance, presented special \$1,500 awards to Abts and the Southeast Wisconsin Service-Learning Consortium to finance attendance of a teacher or staff member to the

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National Service-Learning Conference. Burmaster noted that the financial awards from State Farm allow Wisconsin to share its service-learning efforts and learn from other states at the national level.

“The health of every community, small and large, is strengthened as students learn to see issues through the eyes of others,” Burmaster concluded. “Because of our work in service-learning and civic engagement, Wisconsin students are contributing to the success of others and defining what it means to be an American in our interconnected world.”

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NOTES: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2009_21.pdf. Visit the State Superintendent’s Photo Gallery for photos from this event <http://dpi.wi.gov/sprntdnt/photos.html>.